

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
Washington

INSTITUTION

OF THE

BOSTON DISPENSARY,

FOR THE

MEDICAL RELIEF OF THE POOR.

Incorporated,

1804



Boston :

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1808.

784



Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and one.

*An Act to incorporate Samuel Parker
and others into a Society by the name
of the Boston Dispensary.*

Whereas certain persons did in the year 1796 associate and establish a charitable Institution in the town of Boston, for the purpose of affording medical advice and relief to the sick poor of said town, under the name of the Boston Dispensary: And whereas said Institution has been of general and essential service to such persons as are not of ability to procure medical advice and aid for themselves; and the Managers of said Dispensary have represented to this Court the difficulties under which they labour for want of an Incorporation, and have petitioned for an Act remedial of those difficulties: And inasmuch as the intentions of said persons appear to be deserving of encouragement—

SECT. 1. Be it therefore enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, that the Rev. Samuel Parker, Samuel Stillman, and Samuel West, Doctors

in Divinity, William Tudor, John Andrews, Thomas Davis, Stephen Gorham, and Samuel Dunn, Esquires, Jonathan Amory, Jun. Thomas Brewer, and Benjamin Buffey, Merchants, and Nathaniel Smith, Physician, all of said Boston, the Managers of said charitable Institution, together with their Associates be, and they hereby are incorporated and made a Body Politic for the purposes aforesaid, by the name of the Boston Dispensary; and that they, their associates, and successors, have perpetual succession by the said name, and have power to make bye laws for the preservation and advancement of said Institution not repugnant to the laws of this Commonwealth.

SECT. 2. Be it further enacted, that the said Boston Dispensary be, and it is hereby authorized and empowered to make, appoint and have a common seal, and is hereby made liable to be sued, and enabled to sue and defend in its corporate capacity in any of the Courts of Record of this Commonwealth; and is hereby licensed and empowered to make purchases and to receive grants and donations of real and personal estates, and to hold the same for the charitable purposes aforesaid; provided the rents and profits of the real estate, together with the interest of the personal estate, shall not exceed the sum of five thousand dollars, and to manage and dispose of such estates, as to the said Corporation shall appear fit.

SECT. 3. Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the contributors to said Institution shall meet at Boston on the second Thursday in October, annually, for the purpose of electing by ballot twelve Managers and a Treasurer, public notice of the time and place of holding such meeting being given once at least in two of the newspapers published in said town seven days before the day of meeting, and votes may at all elections be given either in person or by proxy.

SECT. 4. Be it further enacted, that the business of said Managers shall be to appoint the Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecary of said Dispensary, to provide medicines for the patients recommended by the contributors, and to regulate all affairs relative to the Institution, any three of whom shall constitute a quorum. And all instruments, which the said Managers shall lawfully make and execute, shall, when signed by their Chairman, Treasurer or Secretary, and sealed with their common seal, bind the said Corporation and be valid in law.

SECT. 5. And be it further enacted, that the Rev. Samuel Parker be, and hereby is authorised, by public notice in two of the Boston newspapers, to call the first meeting of said contributors at such time and place as he shall judge proper ; at which meeting the said Corporation shall have all the power vested in them at their stated annual meetings

in October, but the officers then chosen shall not continue in office longer than the next meeting in October, unless elected anew.

In the House of Representatives, Feb. 24, 1801, this Bill, having had three several readings, passed to be enacted.

EDWARD H. ROBBINS, *Spk.*

In Senate, Feb. 26, 1801, this Bill, having had two several readings, passed to be enacted.

SAMUEL PHILLIPS, *Pres.*

Feb. 26, 1801, By the Governor approved.

CALEB STRONG.

True Copy. Attest, JOHN AVERY, Secretary.

INSTITUTION

OF THE

BOSTON DISPENSARY.

IT having been found by experience, both in Europe, and in several of the capital towns in America, that Dispensaries for the Medical Relief of the Poor are the most useful among benevolent Institutions, a number of Gentlemen propose to establish a public Dispensary in the town of Boston, for the relief of the sick poor, which they presume will embrace the following advantages:

First. The sick, without being pained by a separation from their families, may be attended and relieved in their own houses.

Secondly. The sick can, in this way, be assisted at a less expense to the public than in an hospital.

Thirdly. Those who have seen better days may be comforted without being humiliated: And all the poor receive the benefits of a charity the more refined, as it is the more secret.

For the promotion of the design, the following Regulations are established by the subscribers to this Charity, as—

Rules of the Boston Dispensary.

I. Each lady or gentleman, who pays annually into the hands of the treasurer *five dollars*, shall be entitled to the privilege of having two patients at one time under the care of the Dispensary. Those who annually pay *ten dollars* shall have four, and so on, in the same proportion: And those, who subscribe *fifty dollars*, shall be entitled, during life, to the privilege of having four patients attended at one time by the physicians of the Dispensary.

II. A Board, consisting of twelve Managers and a treasurer, shall be annually elected on the second Thursday of October, by a majority of the contributors present at such meeting, and votes may at all elections be given either in person or by proxy. Three managers shall constitute a quorum. Their business shall be to provide medicines for the sick, and to regulate all affairs relative to the Institution.

III. Three attending and two consulting physicians and surgeons, and three apothecaries of the Dispensary, shall be annually elected by the Managers of the Institution.

IV. Every case shall be duly attended if recommended by a contributor in a written note, addressed to the attending physician, agreeably to the first rule. The attending physicians and surgeons shall have a right to

apply for advice and assistance to the consulting physicians and surgeons, when they think proper, in all difficult and extraordinary cases.

V. As soon as the funds will admit of purchasing or tenancing a suitable building for the purpose, the apothecary shall reside at the Dispensary. His business shall be to compound and deliver medicines, to keep an exact account of the names, places of abode, diseases, times of admission, discharge, &c. of the patients; for which he shall receive such a compensation as the Managers shall judge adequate to his services.

Form of a Receipt given to each contributor by the Treasurer.

BOSTON DISPENSARY.

A. B. is entitled to all the privileges of a contributor to the Boston Dispensary, having paid subscription for year
Treasurer.

Form of a recommendation of a Patient, to the care of the Dispensary, and rules to be observed by the Patients.

TO THE PHYSICIAN OF THE BOSTON DISPENSARY.

I recommend
to the care of the Dispensary, believing
to be a proper object of this charity.

Contributor.
Day of 18

Rules to be observed by the Patients.

1. THE physicians are at the Dispensary every day, *Sundays* excepted, between the hours of *twelve* and *two* o'clock, at which time all the patients, who are able to go abroad, are to attend.

2. Those patients, who are not well enough to come to the Dispensary, shall be visited at their own houses.

3. No persons will be deemed objects of this charity, but such as are really necessitous.

4. All such patients who, in the judgment of the physician, are well enough to go abroad, and neglect to attend at the Dispensary, for ten days, shall be discharged, as disorderly, from the care and benefit of the Institution.

5. All the vials must be returned to the apothecary; any patients, who neglect to return them, shall be deprived of the benefits of the Dispensary.

6. Every patient must deliver in their letter of recommendation at the Dispensary, and, when cured, take a regular discharge to the contributor who recommended them, or they must not expect to be again received.

Form of a Discharge.

Boston Dispensary,

18

is hereby discharged from
the care of the Dispensary.

{ *Physician to the*
{ *Dispensary.*

THE following rules for the direction of the physician and apothecary, of the Boston Dispensary, have been adopted by the Managers.

Rules to be observed by the Physician of the
BOSTON DISPENSARY.

First. THE physician shall attend all such patients regularly recommended, as are under confinement, and choose the physician of the Dispensary, at least once a day, and shall also call at the Dispensary every day (Sundays excepted) between the hours of 12 and 2, P. M. if necessary, to see if any persons are there waiting for medical advice, and to be informed what new patients are recommended to the care of the Dispensary.

Second. He shall keep a record of the names of the patients under the care of the Dispensary of whom he is the physician, of the disorders under which they labour, their age and occupation, and with respect to those whose disorders shall prove fatal, of the time of their death and the number of his visits to each, which record shall be laid before the Managers semi-annually, or oftener if demanded.

Third. It shall be the duty of the physician to suggest and lay before the Managers for their consideration any new regulations or improvements that may occur to him, which will have a probable tendency to pro-

mote the usefulness of this Institution, and make it more extensively beneficial.

Rules to be observed by the Apothecaries of the
BOSTON DISPENSARY.

First. The apothecaries shall deliver no medicines to any person on the account of the Dispensary, who is not recommended by a contributor, agreeably to the adopted printed form.

Second. When any person brings or sends a recommendation as aforesaid, the apothecary shall separate said recommendation from the rules to be observed by the patient; the former he shall keep on file, and the latter shall be delivered or sent to the patient.

Third. Each apothecary shall keep a fair record, in a book to be provided for that purpose in separate columns, of the names of each patient, the contributor by whom said patient is recommended, the date of the recommendation, the physician attending him or her, the time when discharged, and the amount of medicines delivered for his or her use, which book shall be laid before the Managers at each of their meetings.

Fourth. No patient shall be furnished with any medicines from the Dispensary, unless from the advice or prescription of the physician of the Dispensary, or some one of the regular physicians belonging to the town of Boston.

Fifth. No medicines shall be delivered to any patient recommended by a contributor, if the said contributor has, previous to said recommendation, his or her assigned number of patients under the care of the Dispensary, agreeably to the constitution; and for the apothecary's information herein, he shall be furnished by the treasurer with an attested list of the subscribers, and of the sums respectively paid by them.

Sixth. Each apothecary shall semi-annually report to the Managers the state of his accounts against the Dispensary, and oftener if thereto required.

At a meeting of the Managers of the Boston Dispensary, December 11, 1807,

Voted, That the foregoing rules be adopted for the government of the physicians and apothecaries of said Dispensary, and that they be furnished with fair copies of the same.

Attest. JOSEPH ECKLEY, *Chairman.*

At the Annual Meeting, Oct. 8, 1807, the following gentlemen were chosen Managers, viz.

Rev. Dr. Joseph Eckley,
John Andrews, Esq.
William Smith, Esq.
Capt. Samuel Dunn,
Mr. Jonathan Amory,
Deacon Henry Hill,
Mr. Adam Babcock,
Deacon Samuel Salisbury,
Doctor Samuel Cobb,
Mr. Samuel Snelling,
Mr. Henderson Inches,
Mr. Gideon Snow,
Mr. E. L. Boyd.

Rev. Dr. Joseph Eckley, *Chairman*,
John Andrews, Esq. *Secretary*,
William Smith, Esq. *Treasurer*.

Visiting Physicians.

Dr. Horace Beane, *for the Northern District*.
Dr. Cyrus Perkins, *for the Middle District*.
Dr. Thomas I. Parker, *for the Southern District*.
James Lloyd, M. D. }
Isaac Rand, senior, M. D. } *Consulting Physicians.*

Apothecaries.

Mr. Stephen Thayer, *No. 4, Newbury Street*.
Mr. Thomas Bartlett, *No. 13, Cornhill*.
Mr. Robert Fennelly, *No. 33, Prince Street*.

Mr. Joseph Burge, *Messenger*.

List of Subscribers to the BOSTON DISPENSARY.

MR. THOMAS AMORY, 50 dollars.

Mrs. Elizabeth Amory,

Mr. Jonathan Amory, jun.

Thomas C. Amory,

John Amory,

Jeremiah Allen,

John Andrews,

John T. Apthorp,

E. T. Andrews,

William Andrews.

Benjamin Bufley,

William Brown,

Thomas Bartlett,

Samuel Blagge,

Peter C. Brooks,

Kirk Boot,

Tristram Barnard,

Ebenezer L. Boyd, 50 dollars.

Rev. Thomas Baldwin, D. D.

Mr. Josiah Bacon,

Adam Babcock,

Andrew Brimmer,

George W. Brimmer,

John Brown, 50 dollars.

Josiah Bradlee,

William Blagrove,

Samuel Bradlee,

William Blaney,

Thompson Baxter,

Nathaniel Brewer.

- Mr. Gardner L. Chandler,
Joseph Coolidge,
Joseph Coolidge, jun.
Miss Peggy Coffin,
Mr. Jonathan Chapman,
Samuel Cobb,
Mrs. Catherine Codman, 50 *dollars*.
Mr. William Clap,
Richard Jeffrey Cleaveland,
Cornelius Coolidge,
Aaron P. Cleaveland,
Israel Cook,
David W. Child,
Richard Chamberlain,
John G. Coffin,
John Cotton,
George Cabott,
Rev. Joseph Clay,
Mr. John Cheverus,
Joseph Chapman,

Ebenezer Dorr,
George Deblois,
Samuel Dunn,
Thomas Dennie
Mrs. Eleanor Davis,
Mr. Isaac P. Davis, 50 *dollars*.
Joshua Davis,
Mrs. Mary Doubt, 50 *dollars*.

Mr. Simon Elliot,
Otis Everitt,
Rev. Joseph Eckley, D. D.

Mr. Nalbro Frazier, 50 *dollars*.

Joseph Field,
John Fleet,
Robert Fennelly,

Mrs. Eben. Francis, 50 *dollars*.

Mr. Thomas Ford,
John B. Frazier,
Robert Fletcher,
James H. Foster,
Ebenezer Farley,

David Greene,
Samuel Gore,
Richard Green,
John Gore,
Jeremiah Gore,
Ozias Goodwin,
Benjamin Goddard,
Gilbert & Dean, 10 *dollars*.
William R. Gray, 10 *dollars*.
Abraham Gibson,
Robert H. Gardner,
Oliver C. Greenleaf,
Simeon S. Goodwin,
John R. Green,

Mrs. Mary Green,

Mr. Stephen Higginson,
Stephen Higginson, jun.
John Haskins,
Jonathan Hunnewell,
Henry Hill,
Jonathan Harris,

Mr. Benjamin Hale,
 George Higginson,
 Mrs. Hubbard,
 Mr. Judah Hayes,
 Henry Higginson,
 Henry Homes, 50 *dollars*.
 Joseph Hiller,
 Mrs. Mary Hopkins,
 Mr. Joseph Head,
 George Homer,
 Mrs. Ann Haskins,

Mr. Henderfon Inches,
 Dr. William Ingalls,

Mr. John C. Jones,
 Henry Jackson,
 Thomas K. Jones,
 Jonathan Jackson,
 Joseph W. Jenkins,
 Dr. James Jackson,
 Mr. David Jones,
 John Jones, jun.

Thomas Kendall,

John Lowell,
 William Lambert,
 James Lloyd, jun.
 Benjamin Lamphear,
 Ensign Lincoln,
 Robert Lamb,
 Miss Catherine Smith Langdon, 50 *dollars*.

Mr. Thomas Melville,
William Mackay,
Mrs. M'Lane, 50 *dollars*.
Mr. Francis Matignon,
Israel Munson,

Rufus Newcomb,

Francis J. Oliver,

William Payne, 50 *dollars*.
John Peck, 50 *dollars*,
Thomas H. Perkins, 10 *dollars*.
Samuel Parkman,
John Parker,
William Pratt,
Gorham Parsons,
James Perkins,
Samuel G. Perkins,
John Prince, jun.
Eben Preble,
Jonathan Phillips,
William Phillips, 50 *dollars*.
Samuel J. Prescott,
Ebenezer Parker,
James Prentiss,
Samuel Phillips,
John Perry,

Abraham Quincy,

Daniel D. Rogers,
Nathaniel P. Russell,

Mr. Samuel Rogers,
Dr. Isaac Rand, fenior.
Mr. Edward Reynolds,
Mrs. Elizabeth Rand.

Mr. Samuel Salisbury, 50 *dollars*.

William Smith,
James Scott,
Samuel Smith,
Ebenezer Seaver,

Mrs. Sprague, 10 *dollars*.

Mr. Samuel Snelling,
Gideon Snow,
Daniel Sargeant,
Samuel Salisbury, jun.
Joseph Sewall,
George Storer,
Josiah Salisbury, 10 *dollars*.
Prince Snow,
Charles Savage,
John Smith,

William Tudor,

Mrs. Turell,

Mr. Samuel Torrey,
Edward Tuckerman, jun.

Lady Temple,

Mr. John Tappan,
Obadiah Thayer,
Stephen Thayer,
Samuel Tuttle,

James Vila

Mr. David West,
Oliver Wendell,
Henry Wainwright,
James White,
John Wait,
Samuel H. Walley, 10 dollars.
Elijah Withington,
John D. Williams,
John West,
Timothy N. Wood,
Charles Walley,
Benjamin West,
Nathan Webb,
Rufus Webb,
Stephen Webb,
Thomas B. Wales.

N. B. *Those without any sums affixed to their
Names are Subscribers of 5 dols. per annum.*

Med. Hist.

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